

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application

Inventors: James D. Thornton and Richard R. Burton  
Appl. No.: 09/740,076  
Confirm. No.: 4563  
Filed: December 19, 2000  
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXECUTING  
BATCH JOBS BY DELEGATING WORK TO  
INDEPENDENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

**PATENT APPLICATION**

Art Unit: 2194  
Examiner: Zhen, Li B.  
Atty. Docket No. D/99578  
(XERX-01042US0)  
**Customer No.: 23910**

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 § CFR 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Reply is in response to the Office Action dated October 27, 2006.

**Amendments to the Specification** are shown on page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.